In the Claims:

1.(presently amended) A method of absorbing water vapour and of combating malodour within a cavity, the method comprising the step of introducing into the cavity a package comprising a wall material which retains particulate contents and is permeable to water vapour, the contents comprising a composition selected from:

(a) a dehumidifying compound, an odour-combating compound, and a filler comprising starch or a starch derivative or cellulose or a cellulose derivative, and,

(b) a dehumidifying compound, an odour-combating compound, and a filler which acts as a thickener or gelling agent for the water inside the package

wherein the cavity is the interior of an article of footwear or a storage space within an article of furniture.

2.(canceled)

3.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in claim 1 or 2~~, wherein the contents further comprise a filler which is an alkaline compound able to neutralise foot acids.

4.(presently amended) A method according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 3, wherein said alkaline compound is sodium bicarbonate.

5.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the dehumidifying compound is capable of absorbing at least its own weight of moisture.

6.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the dehumidifying compound is a water absorbing metal salt or oxide.

7.(presently amended) A method according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 6, wherein the dehumidifying compound is selected from calcium chloride and magnesium chloride.

8.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the dehumidifying compound is present in an amount of at least 10wt% of the weight of the dry contents.

9. (presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the dehumidifying compound is present in an amount of no more than 95wt% of the weight of the dry contents.

10.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the odour-combating compound is a zeolite.

11.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the odour-combating compound is present in an amount at least 0.5wt% of the weight of the dry contents.

12.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the odour-combating compound is present in an amount of no more than 25wt% of the weight of the dry contents.

13.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in claim 1 or 2~~, wherein the filler comprises starch or a starch derivative.

14.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the filler constitutes at least 10wt% of the weight of the dry contents.

15.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the filler constitutes no more than 80wt% of the weight of the dry contents.

16.(presently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~, wherein the contents further comprise a fragrance.

17.(original) A package comprising a wall material which retains particulate contents and is permeable to water vapour, the contents comprising a dehumidifying compound, an odour-combating compound and a filler comprising starch or a starch derivative or cellulose or a cellulose derivative, in admixture.

18.(original) A package comprising a wall material which retains particulate contents and is permeable to water vapour, the contents comprising a dehumidifying compound, an odour-combating compound and a filler which acts as a thickener or gelling agent for the water inside the package, in admixture.

19.(original) A particulate composition comprising a dehumidifying compound, an odour-combating compound, and a filler comprising starch or a starch derivative or cellulose or a cellulose derivative, in admixture.

20.(original) A particulate composition comprising a dehumidifying compound, an odour-combating compound, and a filler which acts as a thickener or gelling agent for the water inside the package, in admixture.

21. (canceled)